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BY J. A. SELBY.

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## THE PHOENIX,

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BY JULIAN A. SELBY  
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## DOUBLE SHEET.

Interesting Letter.  
We find the following letter in the New York Day Book:

COLUMBIA, S. C., October 31, 1865.—  
Affairs in Louisiana and the South were the subject of an interesting conversation at Nickerson's Hotel last Friday evening. A gentleman who owns a large plantation there and one in this State, and who appeared to be thoroughly acquainted with all the planting interest of the South, gave a statement of the condition of the cotton and sugar crops, together with a good deal of information on the general agriculture of the country, the capital invested and the different branches of trade connected therewith.

The appearance of the country he said, as it first strikes the eye of the traveler in passing through Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi, and the concurrent testimony of all the planters met with in travel, is that of general poverty and destitution—the utter deficiency of crops of every sort. As a general rule, on the uplands the crops which should have made from fifteen to twenty bushels to the acre will make but five or six. On the prairie lands, where was formerly made from thirty to forty, the yield is about ten bushels to the acre. There is an evident prostration of agriculture in every part of the country, arising simply from the fact of the inability of the planters to apply the labor in the present condition of affairs.

The approach of Mobile and New Orleans is marked by an evident appearance of thrift in business, which seems surprising, considering the real condition of the country. On examination, however, into the affairs of the business of those two cities, the whole trade is found to be based upon small amounts of cotton, mostly of the old crops, and some other produce of inferior value sent by persons who for four or five years have been deprived of the necessaries and comforts of life, to provide themselves in these matters.

In New Orleans especially there was a large influx of transient population from the country, seeking an examination of old accounts with former business men, and endeavoring to provide means for the restoration of their property to something like a productive condition. There was no money to supply these deficiencies except in very peculiar cases, and almost every one after a week's sojourn in the city returns disappointed to his home. The business men were utterly unable to afford any accommodation to their old and valued customers. The largest and most flourishing mercantile houses before the war in New Orleans declared themselves powerless, unable to resume the business which was their only means of support. One who before the war was worth at least six hundred thousand dollars, stated to the speaker that he was obliged to confine himself to a small peddling trade to procure fifty cents to get a meal at a restaurant.

The despondency of the people is very great. A serious question in the minds of business men is, how they are to maintain themselves in their respective classes in the absence of incoming crops, after the present supply of money from the old crop is exhausted. The most casual eye, in looking around what is called the coast of Louisiana, is at once struck, and the observation is corroborated at every step, with the complete destruction of the cotton and other interests. The levees in many places have fallen

in, the rank weeds and grass have superseded the former luxuriant and prolific crops, the canals and ditches have been filled up with drained lands, and the cultivation, which was only second in beauty to that of the lands in Belgium, is completely forsaken. Such is the condition of the land that, leaving aside the precariousness of labor, an immense outlay of money is requisite to reduce the plantations to their old state, or to insure for many years to come, even with abundant labor, much more than half of their former productions.

The crops of Louisiana were thus estimated. Taking the former minimum crop of sugar to be 350,000 hogsheads, and the maximum 540,000; the cotton on the Mississippi and its tributaries, minimum 300,000 bales, maximum 400,000, the incoming crop, as compared with that, will not be more than 30,000 bales of cotton and 15,000 hogsheads of sugar, and this is a very large estimate.

The levees of the Mississippi River and its tributaries and outlets embrace a length of 3,000 miles, with an average height of embankment of perhaps about twelve feet, with a base of ninety or one hundred feet. In many localities, the levees have a height of thirty feet, with a base of three hundred feet. These large works are located always at the most dangerous places, where there are the largest inroads of water upon the tillable land. Without a coerced system of labor, these breaks cannot be repaired and kept up, unless, indeed, the Government of the United States undertakes that laborious and indispensable work. Even under that system, if such an appropriation is made, the levees would be less effectual in keeping out the waters than heretofore, because the eye of the owner of each particular property day and night is to exercise a guardianship which a disinterested hireling is not likely to do. In addition to this, a large portion of the improvements on the plantations, the sugar houses and machinery, erected at such heavy cost, have been in most sections entirely destroyed during the war. The outlay of capital required to restore the buildings, the private embankments, the fences, (most of which have to be purchased,) the ditching, canalling, &c., puts it out of the power of the great bulk of planters to resume their former avocations. It must also be taken into consideration, that in the delta of the Mississippi, for the effectual cultivation of the cane and cotton crops, for each thousand acres of land there must be at least three hundred miles of canalling, ditching and cross drains, the latter varying from four feet in width to five in depth, also an enormous canalage that is to connect the drainage of each plantation with the regular outlet or bayou for carrying off superfluous water. When these difficulties are considered to the planter in his present condition, without credit, without an organized system of labor, the risk before him of undertaking such a work is really appalling. And yet, unless it is done, the depreciation in the value of his lands, the entire loss of all the improvements, buildings and machinery, will leave the planter penniless, even were his possessions before the war worth millions.

Mr. John Burnside's plantation, one of the largest in the South, may be taken as an example. It has been the most systematically managed, both as regards agricultural developments and economy of expenditure, and notwithstanding a liberal compensation to the few hands he has been enabled to employ, his crop has been reduced from 8,000 hogsheads of sugar, in 1861, to between 500 and 600 hogsheads in 1865. But this loss of products is not the least he has to encounter. On one estate of 6,000 acres of cultivated land, from the inability to procure the reasonable labor and remove the difficulties of drainage in the rear of his estate, nearly or quite one-half is lost altogether to present use.

The adjoining estates of Governor John L. Manning, Hon. Duncan F. Campbell, Mr. Branch, Mr. Landry, Mr. Valcour and Mr. Alme have all been reduced to a condition far less available than that of Mr. Burnside,

and so with all the lands lying on what is commonly called the coast of Louisiana, but which is really the banks of the river down to the city of New Orleans and below it.

Above Baton Rouge, which is more immediately on the seat of war, the destruction has been entire. Nothing remains to the proprietor excepting his abandoned lands, and even those are subjected to a taxation which he will not be able to pay, and in all likelihood will be removed from his possession or sold for taxes.

General Wade Hampton's plantation on Lake Washington is in ruins, although the family throughout the war resided there, under the care of the General's brother, Mr. Christopher Hampton. During the war the General removed his negroes, about 1,100 in number, to South Carolina. Between 200 and 300 remain with him on his place here, which is also but the wreck of a once magnificent estate, the remaining negroes, supported by the efforts of the General, doing little or no work to help themselves.

Up Red River, Louisiana, as far as the war extended, the destruction is as complete, with the exception that the lands, being more elevated, will not be so much injured in the matter of ditching and drainage. This is what is more strictly called the delta of the Mississippi. In all these regions the oxen, the mules, the plantation utensils and most of the machinery have either been so injured or destroyed as to require fresh replenishing upon the plantation as if it had been an original settlement in the forest. So much for the destruction of the property of the agriculturists in the delta of the Mississippi, in the valley and its tributaries.

The great trade of the North-west is thus seriously affected. Each planter formerly in himself afforded to each customer the consumption of a medium sized town. Hay, grain, machinery, cutlery, implements of agriculture, wagons, carts, mules, oxen, glassware, crockery, coal, iron, lead and copper were all formerly delivered at the planter's own door, without wharfage or other city charges, and for which the trader received in return either cotton, molasses or sugar, as he might desire, and have the balance, if any, given on a check upon the banks or merchants in New Orleans, which no one knows to have been ever disputed on presentation for payment. With the exception of the trade which might be afforded by the few planters who may be enabled to carry on their business and make a few cheap purchases, the whole trade to that region of country is entirely lost, unless capital, a coerced system of labor and a more liberal legislation on the part of Congress to the South gives the planters encouragement to renew their former avocations. It is undeniably the case, that after conversation with the most intelligent men from every agricultural district of the country, unless some hope of this kind is realized, the prosperity of the country is lost for a period of at least twenty years.

The condition of the negroes with the dissolution of all ties between the former master and freedmen throughout the entire South, but more especially in the Valley of the Mississippi, has produced a desire on the part of many of the negroes that their former masters shall return and extend their old protection to them. For him they are willing to hire their labor at any reasonable service that may be agreed upon between the owner of the lands and themselves, if they are only left to their own discretion and judgment in the matter. But where their gains are wrested from them by rapacious and greedy officers and they are continually incited by fresh insubordination and renewed thefts in order to supply the greed, all the efforts of the master must fail to result in any permanent good. Where the negroes have been left to themselves, and without coercion to their duties or solicitations, have remained on the plantations, they seem desirous to resume their former relations with the proprietors to which they belong. During the absence of the proprietors in the war and the occupation of the country by

soldiers, the negroes were left to take care of themselves in great part. The most painful consequences ensued. Out of eight hundred on Governor Manning's plantation, but three hundred are alive, the rest having died of disease and neglect. In old times the negroes were attended to like children; an able physician was employed at a liberal salary to visit them daily and see to their health.

## Valuable Lands & Stock FOR SALE.



THAT VALUABLE COTTON and PROVISION PLANTATION, in Darlington District, known as "Bunker Hill," formerly the residence of John McClenaghan, deceased, is offered for sale, containing 1,156 acres, by a plat of W. H. Wingate, Surveyor. It is bounded on the South by the line of Marion District, defined by a canal draining the waters of Polk Swamp into Black Creek, which stream is its Northern boundary. Some five to six hundred acres are cleared, under cultivation, and present the advantages of fine cotton lands, with rich bottom lands for corn.

On the place is a DWELLING HOUSE, with eight rooms, a Vegetable and Flower Garden, with all convenient out-buildings; a new Gin-house, Barns and out-buildings which have comfortably accommodated from fifty to sixty persons.

It is situated within two miles of Mar's Bluff Station, on the Wilmington and Manchester Railroad, and within five miles of Florence, and is too well known for its healthfulness, fine water and its advantages of society, to need a further description.

With the place, will be sold, if desired, some 8 or 10 prime MULES, 2 HORSES, CATTLE, SHEEP, HOGS, CORN, FODDER, &c.; WAGONS, CARTS, Blacksmith's and Carpenter's TOOLS and FARMING IMPLEMENTS.

In the event that no sale is made, this place will be leased for one year from 1st January next; and the perishable articles mentioned will be sold on the premises, for cash, on SATURDAY, 9th of December next.

For terms and conditions, apply to L. W. T. Wickham, Richmond, Va., or to the undersigned, at Mar's Bluff.

W. W. HARLEE,  
Agent for L. W. T. Wickham.

Mr. S. LUCAS, on the place, will show the premises, and give persons, desirous of inquiring, the facilities of deciding for themselves. Nov 15 14

## G. DIERCKS, Watchmaker and Jeweller,

BEGS leave respectfully to inform his old friends and customers, and the public generally, that he is now prepared to repair

## WATCHES AND JEWELRY

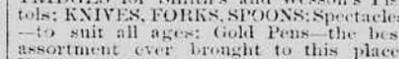
Of every description, at the shortest notice and on the most reasonable terms.

Apply at his residence—up-stairs—Assembly street, West side, one door from Pendleton street.

All orders left at the store of MELVIN M. COHEN will receive the promptest attention. Nov 5 1mo

## T. W. Radcliffe,

AT THE SIGN OF THE DRUM,



(Formerly at the Corner of Richardson and Plain Streets; now at the Corner of Pendleton and Assembly streets—his dwelling.)

OFFERS every article in his line, viz: WATCHES, JEWELRY, GUNS, PISTOLS, POWDER, SHOT, CARTRIDGES for Smith's and Wesson's Pistols; KNIVES, FORKS, SPOONS; Spectacles—to suit all ages; Gold Pens—the best assortment ever brought to this place; Fishing Tackle, new and fresh—selected by myself; Hair and Tooth Brushes, Combs, Walking Canes and everything usually kept in our line of business.

I will also receive from abroad every article of MERCHANDIZE that may be consigned to me, for which I will make monthly or quarterly returns—soliciting a share of patronage.

Watches and Clocks carefully repaired by experienced workmen. Jewelry repaired. Rings made to order. Engraving neatly executed.

The highest rates paid for old Gold and Silver, and all of the above goods named will be sold at the lowest prices. Nov 5

Law Card.  
I HAVE resumed the PRACTICE OF LAW. Office at Greenville. Nov 5 WADDY THOMPSON.

## GENERAL COMMISSION AGENCY.

P. B. GLASS has established, in connection with the Book and Stationery business, a general COMMISSION AGENCY for the purchase and sale of Merchandise of every description, Bonds, Stocks, Real Estate, &c.  
Careful attention given to all business entrusted to him.  
Office, at present, on Plain street, near Nickerson's Hotel. Nov 1

## HANAHAN & WARLEY, COMMISSION AND FORWARDING MERCHANTS,

Office Washington Street, near Main, COLUMBIA, S. C.

WE, the undersigned, have formed a copartnership, for the purpose of transacting a general COMMISSION and FORWARDING BUSINESS.  
On hand, always, a full stock of GROCERIES, HARDWARE, HATS, SHOES and FANCY GOODS.  
H. D. HANAHAN,  
Oct 24 1mo FELIX WARLEY.

## FURMAN UNIVERSITY,

Greenville, S. C.  
THE EXERCISES of this Institution will be resumed on the 15th of February next.  
For Circular giving further information, application may be made to  
Prof. JNO. F. LANNEAU,  
Oct 28 67 Secretary of Faculty.  
Charleston Courier, Augusta Chronicle & Sentinel, Edgefield Advertiser, Newberry Herald, and Yorkville Enquirer, please copy until the 15th of January, and forward bills to the Secretary of Faculty, Greenville.



RECEIVED AND FOR SALE BY L. C. CLARKE,

Washington Street, Opposite Old Jail.

TOGETHER WITH RIBBONS, COLOGNE, TOILET POWDER, VERBENA WATER, TOILET SOAP, SOZODONT, DIAPER PINS, Toilet Powder Boxes, Silk and Leather Belts, Corsets, Tooth, Nail and Hair Brushes, Gloves, Linen Brads, Tape, Shawls, Edgings, Balmoral Skirts, Calicoes, Traveling Bags, Portmanteaus, Canton Flannel, Cassimeres and Cloths, for Gent's wear, Blankets, Hats, Whalebone, Zephyr Worsted, Black Bombazine, Black French Merino, Black Alpaca, B. E. Diaper, Huck, Diaper, Cloak Ornaments and Trimmings, Serpentine Silks and Worsted Braids, Fancy, Pearl, Agate, Bone, Metal and other Buttons, Shell and Imitation Tuck Combs, Dress Trimmings, Marcelline Shawl Pins, Menfour, Ladies' Merino Vests, Drawers and Petticoats, Gilt and Jet Belt Buckles, Gent's Merino Drawers and Undervests, Waterfalls and Pads, Lace Veils, Marcelline Silk, &c. Oct 29

## Phoenix Iron Works,

Situated Foot of Richland St., near Greenville Railroad, Columbia.

## GOLDSMITH & KIND, PROPRIETORS.

THE above works are now completed, and the undersigned beg to inform the public that they are now prepared to execute all kinds of IRON CASTINGS, such as STEAM BOILERS, RAILROAD IRON, MILE IRON, IRON FRANGING, &c. They are also prepared to furnish BRASS CASTINGS of every description. Orders are solicited and will be promptly attended to.  
P. KIND,  
GOLDSMITH.